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09/023,373  
BC 032 US NA  
Reply and Amendment

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In the Application of:  
CHAUHAN *ET AL.*

CASE NO.: BC1032 US NA

CONF. NO.: 7359

SERIAL NO.: 09/823,373

GROUP ART UNIT: 1637

FILED: 30 MARCH 2001

EXAMINER: FREDMAN, J. N.

FOR: ISOLATION AND EXPRESSION OF A GENE  
FOR A NITRILASE FROM *ACIDOVOROX 72W*

**REPLY AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Final Office Action mailed 22 April 2004, Applicants enclose a formal Reply and Amendment. The document is filed within the three-month shortened statutory period under the certificate of transmission provisions of 37 CFR 1.8.

Applicants respectfully request the entry of the amendments, reconsideration of the application, and its prompt allowance.

Claims 1-4, 6-20, 24-47, and 49 are pending in this application. Claims 5, 21-23, and 48 were previously cancelled. Claims 3, 4, 6-8, and 24-45 are withdrawn from consideration as drawn to non-elected claims. Claims 10, 12, 14, 20, 47 and 49 are allowed. Claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 13, 15-19, and 46 stand rejected.

Claims 6-8, and 24-45, drawn to restricted claims to be prosecuted in divisional applications, are cancelled herein. Claims 2 and 9 are amended herein. Claims 1, 3 and 4 are cancelled herein.

The Claims as amended herein are presented beginning on page 2. The Remarks (beginning on page 4) are numbered to correspond to the numbering used in the pending Office Action.